



March 8, 2010

To: Program Review & Investigations Committee

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO

Re: Testimony on SB 269

S. B. No. 269 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING AN INITIATIVE TO SHARE AGENCY DATA TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Please accept these comments regarding SB 269.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities.

SB 269 requires OPM to develop policies and procedures for the sharing of information among the state agencies that provide services for children. We have several recommendations relating to this proposed legislation.

1. The bill recommends development of a system for sharing information among state agencies.

We ask that you include input from community providers under contract with the respective state agencies in the development of the policies and procedures referenced in the bill.

2. The bill recommends the integration of automated data systems.

At present, contracted service providers must report on client and fiscal data using different systems for DMHAS, DCF, DDS and other contracting state agencies.

In addition, all of the community providers are in the process of selecting and implementing systems for Electronic Health Records. We are seeking incentives from state government for the implementation of these costly systems that will provide us with client, billing, financial and quality data.

The integration of automated data systems becomes a huge and expensive task given the separate reporting systems currently in place and the overlay of EHR systems. **We support the integration of data reporting assuming that the cost for implementing such systems is included in provider reimbursements and recommend that OPM take this on as a project in their Purchase of Service (POS) unit.**

We would be pleased to discuss these concepts with the Committee in greater detail.

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